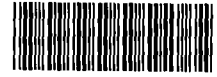


WEDNESDAY  
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EPA, Army Corps to oversee summer project to clean up river.

# Cleanup slated at last asbestos site near ex-Manville plant



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Telegraph Staff

NASHUA - Cleanup work at a final asbestos contamination site near the former Johns-Manville plant is set to begin by the end of the month, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Last year, the city demolished the building where industrial materials were once manufactured at 40 Bridge St. and 10 Sanders St.

But cleanup is still required about 500 feet north of the site, where wastewater carrying asbestos fibers had been discharged into the river when the plant was operating.

The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have agreed to oversee cleanup of the river,

putting an end to the primary source of contamination in the Bridge Street neighborhood. The site has been considered one of the worst health hazards in New England.

Details of the project and its impact on the neighbors will be the subject of a public meeting today at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of City Hall. "We want to make sure they (neighbors) know we'll be cleaning up the river and there will be no danger to their health during the project," said Timothy Beauchemin, project manager for the Army Corps.

In order to clean the river, engineers will excavate the asbestos-contaminated sediments from the Nashua River and shoreline. The EPA has allocated \$1.3 million to initiate this cleanup.

The asbestos is within the sediment of the riverbed and shoreline and extends about 800 feet downstream from the outflow pipe, said Paul Groulx, EPA onsite coordinator.

To excavate, the Army Corps will direct the construction of a cofferdam in the river along the shoreline, then pump out the river water. The bulk of the work will be done in the low-flow period of the river during July, August and September.

During the excavation, access to the af-

ected area of the river will be restricted until the asbestos is either removed or covered to prevent the migration of asbestos fibers.

Asbestos, a known carcinogen, becomes dangerous when it becomes friable - loose, crumbling, and easily released into the air, where particles can lodge in one's lungs.

The asbestos waste will be disposed at the city's landfill in a special hazardous waste cell, Beauchemin said. The work includes digging, hauling and treating the affected waste and testing the site to make sure it is clean.

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## MEETING DETAILS

■ **What:** Public meeting to discuss cleanup plans for a section of the Merrimack River that was contaminated by asbestos from the former Johns-Manville plant in Nashua.

■ **When:** Today.

■ **Time:** 7 p.m.

■ **Where:** City Hall auditorium.